

REMARKS

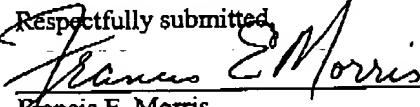
In the final office action the Examiner rejected claims 39-40, 42 and 49-61 under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph, for lack of an enabling description in the specification. Claims 1-13 and 25-61 were rejected as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,143,666 to Lin et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,352,594 to Cook et al., 2002 IEEE/SEMI Advanced Semiconductor Manufacturing Conference article by Ekbundit et al., IEEE Transactions on Semiconductor Manufacturing, vol. 12, no. 3, 340, article by Lee et al., and U.S. Patent No. 5,098,865 to Machado et al. On August 25, 2003, Applicants filed an Amendment in response to the Final Office Action, dated April 24, 2003.

In a telephone interview on September 8, 2003, Examiner Jackson indicated she had entered the Amendment filed on August 25, 2003, and had found claims 1-13 and 25-38 to be patentable over the prior art of record. On September 9, 2003, Examiner Jackson stated in a telephone interview that she was willing to make an Examiner's amendment to cancel claims 39-61 in order to place this application in condition for allowance. Applicants hereby cancel claims 39-61 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute claims 39-61 in the future. Based on Examiner Jackson's statements, Applicants expect claims 1-13 and 25-38 to issue without further examination. If Applicants are mistaken, please call the undersigned immediately.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner allow this application. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (650) 849-7777, if a telephone call could help resolve any remaining items.

Date: September 9, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

  
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